

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OES-03 NSF-01 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05

SP-02 EB-07 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 AGR-05 /061 W

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R 050626Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 899

INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OEXC, BU

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM (IVP)

REF: SOFIA 285

1. WE HAVE PREPARED LIST OF FIELDS IN WHICH WE COULD OFFER BULGARIANS OPPORTUNITY TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR FY-1977 IVP GRANTS. NUMBER OF GRANTS, OBVIOUSLY, DEPENDS UPON CU BUDGET AND RESPONSE TO REFTEL, PARA 2. TO NARROW DOWN FIELDS WITHIN THAT NUMERICAL LIMIT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS (I.E., ON PROSPECTS FOR USEFUL PROGRAMMING) ON EACH FIELD LISTED BELOW.

2. GRANTS WOULD BE FOR 30 DAYS WITH STANDARD BENEFITS. BULGARIANS WOULD PROVIDE INTRA-EUROPEAN TRANSPORTATION (BETWEEN SOFIA AND PARIS, FRANKFURT OR LONDON). WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT LIMIT CANDIDATES TO THOSE WHO SPEAK MAJOR LANGUAGE, SINCE WE ARE GRATIFIED DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ABLE PROVIDE BULGARIAN INTERPRETER-ESCORTS FOR RECENT GRANTEES. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, SEEK TO SPREAD GRANTEE TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE FISCAL YEAR.

3. WE BELIEVE EACH OF THESE SUGGESTED FIELDS -- LISTED IN OUR GENERAL PRIORITY ORDER -- REPRESENTS "INTER-SECTION OF INTERESTS" BETWEEN EMBASSY AND BULGARIANS:

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A. SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH POLICY FORMULATION AND

IMPLEMENTATION. INTERRELATIONS OF FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS WITH FOUNDATIONS AND UNIVERSITIES IN DETERMINING WHAT BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH WILL BE CONDUCTED, AND IF AND HOW RESEARCH TOPICS ARE RELATED TO SOCIAL NEEDS. SPECIAL ATTENTION TO TRANSLATING SOCIAL NEEDS INTO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TO MAXIMIZING SOCIAL BENEFITS FROM RESEARCH.

B. MANAGEMENT OF LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES (FARMS AND RANCHES). THIS WOULD BE U.S. DOMESTIC COUNTERPART TO GRANT THIS FY IN U.S. FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. AGRICULTURE CONTINUES MAJOR FOCUS OF EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL PROGRAM.

C. AMERICAN LITERATURE (FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANDIDATE ONLY). INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM OR FOR INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM (IWP) AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY. CHAVDAR DAMYANOV OF FON MIN CULTURAL COOPERATION DEPT SUGGESTED THIS FIELD IN GENERAL, WITHOUT MENTIONING IWP.

D. MANPOWER TRAINING, ALTERNATIVELY ERGONOMICS. THIS REPRESENTS ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE, DESPITE TURNDOWN OF OFFER TO HOLD ANOTHER USDOL-CO-SPONSORED SEMINAR THIS SPRING (SOFIA 90). MANPOWER TRAINING WAS SUBJECT OF LAST YEAR'S SEMINAR; ERGONOMICS WAS SUGGESTED FOR THIS YEAR.

E. PRESERVATION OF ENVIRONMENT, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO POLLUTION CAUSED BY INDUSTRIALIZATION AND AUTOMOBILES, BOTH OF WHICH ARE INCREASINGLY AFFECTING BULGARIA.

F. PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN CULTURAL HERITAGE. DAMYANOV SUGGESTED THIS FIELD, WHICH COULD INCLUDE DECISION-MAKING ON AND SUPPORT FOR, INTER ALIA, NATIONAL AND STATE HISTORICAL SITES.

G. AMERICAN HISTORY OR FINE ARTS. DAMYANOV ALSO SUGGESTED THESE FIELDS, APPARENTLY WITHOUT FEELING EMBARRASSMENT THAT BULGARIANS DID NOT OFFER CANDIDATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN AMERICAN STUDIES THIS FISCAL YEAR.

H. TELEVISION DESIGN AND DIRECTION. DAMYANOV ALSO SUGGESTED THIS FIELD; BULGARIANS APPARENTLY WISH TO EXPAND NUMBER OF THEIR HOME-PRODUCED TELEVISION PLAYS. FIELD COULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE TELEVISION DOCUMENTARIES.

I. TOURISM PROMOTION AND PROGRAMS. BOTH GOVERNMENTS

HAVE AGREED TO INCLUDE THIS SUBJECT IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT NOW BEING NEGOTIATED.

4. IN ADDITION, AND CONSIDERING SUCCESS WE HAD OFFERING INDIVIDUAL GRANT TO KAMOVA THIS FISCAL YEAR, WE WOULD FAVOR OFFERING ALL-EXPENSE GRANTS BY NAME TO:

A. VULKAN SHOPOV, CHIEF OF BCP CC AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT, WHICH IS INTERFACE BETWEEN BCP CONTROL AND GOVERNMENT EXECUTION OF POLICY. SHOPOV ACKNOWLEDGES U.S. EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AND FOLLOWS U.S. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS WITH INTEREST. PROPOSED GRANT WOULD OPEN ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITIES FOR SALE OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, EQUIPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY TO BULGARIA, AS WELL AS EXPOSE A SENIOR PARTY FIGURE TO BROADER ASPECTS OF U.S. SOCIETY AND CULTURE. SHOPOV SPEAKS NO WESTERN LANGUAGE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.

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B. KIRIL STEFANOV, DIRECTOR OF BULGARIAN IMPRESARIO AGENCY "SOFIACONCERT." BESIDES OBSERVATION OF U.S. MUSICAL SCENE, GRANT WOULD ENABLE STAFANOV TO LOCATE AMERICAN PERFORMING ARTISTS FOR PRESENTATIONS HERE, AND VICE VERSA. STEFANOV IS AN "ARTIST OF MERIT" AND CHIEF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR "PIRIN" FOLK ENSEMBLE. KAMOVA SUGGESTED GRANT TO STEFANOV (SEE ESCORT'S REPORT) WHICH SHE WOULD NOT HAVE DONE WITHOUT SOME INDICATION IT

WOULD BE ACCEPTED. STEFANOV SPEAKS FRENCH.

C. PROF. DR. BLAGOVEST SENDOV, RECTOR OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY
"KLIMENT OKHRIDSKI." SENDOV HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL AND
ALMOST ALONE AMONG BULGARIANS IN SEEKING INTER-INSTITUTIONAL
ARRANGEMENTS WITH U.S. UNIVERSITIES. HIS TERM AS RECTOR
RUNS OUT THIS YEAR, BUT HE MAY BE RE-ELECTED. EVEN IF
NOT, HE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO BE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR
IN BULGARIAN HIGHER EDUCATION. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH
FLUENTLY. (GRANT WOULD NOT BE OFFERED UNTIL AFTER
RECTORSHIP ELECTION LATER THIS SPRING.)

D. PETUR BASHIKAROV, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR CAPITALIST
COUNTRIES IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. HE IS IN
IMPORTANT POSITION FOR INFLUENCING BILATERAL TRADE
RELATIONS. BASHIKAROV IS YOUNG AND PRESUMABLY HAS LONG
CAREER AHEAD OF HIM PARTICULARLY AS HE ASSUMES GREATER
RESPONSIBILITIES (HE WAS BULGARIA'S DELEGATE TO THE
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RECENT BALKAN CONFERENCE), INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OF U.S.
WOULD BE IN OUR INTERESTS. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH FLUENTLY.

5. THESE INDIVIDUALS ALSO ARE LISTED IN PRIORITY
ORDER. WE WOULD RECOMMEND OFFERING GRANTS NOW TO
SHOPOV AND STAFANOV. LATER IN FISCAL YEAR WE WOULD
DETERMINE WHETHER BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS AND GENERAL
STATE OF U.S.-BULGARIAN RELATIONS PERMIT OFFERING GRANTS
TO SENDOV AND BASHIKAROV.

6. ONCE AGREED UPON, LIST OF FIELDS WOULD BE INCLUDED
IN AIDE-MEMOIRE TO BE GIVEN TO DAMYANOV. AT THAT TIME
WE WOULD VERBALLY STATE OUR INTENTION TO OFFER THE
INITIAL PAIR OF INDIVIDUAL GRANTS.
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